Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The separator according to Claim ~~1~~16, wherein the centrifugal drum has a vertical axis of rotation and at least one of the following: a) a single-cone and b) a double-cone construction.

3. (Currently Amended) The separator according to Claim ~~1~~16, wherein the at least one solids discharge nozzle is located in an area of the largest diameter of the centrifugal drum and is inserted into the centrifugal drum from an outside of the centrifugal drum.

4. (Currently Amended) The separator according to Claim ~~1~~16, wherein the at least one wear protection device is constructed as a ramp in the drum shell.

5. (Currently Amended) The separator according to Claim ~~1~~16, wherein the at least one wear protection element is made of a wear-resistant material that includes one or more of the following: a) steel , b) a hard metal , c) a ceramic material and d) a combination of one or more of a), b), c) and d).

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The separator according to Claim ~~6~~12, wherein the angle is between 70 and 85°.

8. (Currently Amended) The separator according to Claim ~~6~~12, wherein the discharge opening is arranged at an offset distance from an outer periphery of the drum shell toward an interior of the centrifugal drum.

9. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 8, wherein the at least one wear protection element extends from the discharge opening to the outer periphery of the drum shell.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The separator according to Claim 1,~~ A separator comprising:

a centrifugal drum including a drum shell having at least one solids discharge nozzle; and

at least one wear protection element on the drum shell in an area of and behind the at least one solids discharge nozzle; and

wherein the at least one wear protection element is constructed as a plate-type body having a channel configured as a discharge channel for a product phase exiting from the centrifugal drum at an angle inclined with respect to a radial direction, the angle being between the radial direction in the area of the at least one discharge nozzle and an orientation of a discharge opening of the at least one discharge nozzle.

11. Currently Amended) The separator according to Claim ~~1~~10, wherein the at least one wear protection element is fastened to the drum shell by at least one of the following: a) screws and b) mutually corresponding groove and tongue elements between the drum shell and the at least one wear protection element.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The separator according to Claim 28,~~ A separator comprising:

a centrifugal drum including a drum shell having at least one solids discharge nozzle; and

at least one wear protection element on the drum shell in an area of and behind the at least one solids discharge nozzle;

wherein the at least one discharge nozzle includes a discharge opening oriented at an angle inclined with respect to a radial direction, and in that the angle, between the radial direction in the area of the at least one discharge nozzle and an orientation of the discharge opening, is equal to or smaller than 90°;

wherein a recess is constructed as an extension of the discharge opening in the drum shell and the recess is configured to receive the at least one wear protection element; and

wherein the at least one wear protection element includes a base plate having tongues as outer edges, the tongues configured to be pushed into two mutually opposite grooves in a lateral base area of the recess.

13. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 10, wherein a base of the channel is situated at a distance offset from an outer periphery of the drum shell toward an interior of the centrifugal drum with respect to a discharge opening of the at least one discharge nozzle in the drum shell, and in that the channel is oriented one of a) completely and b) in sections, the sections being one of a) parallel and b) at an angle with respect to a discharge opening of the at least one discharge nozzle.

14. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 10, wherein the channel transitions into a ramp.

15. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 10, wherein a first area of the channel adjoins a discharge opening of the at least one discharge nozzle, the first area being parallel to a bore section, and a second area of the channel) is inclined farther toward the radial direction.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The separator according to Claim 1,~~ A separator comprising:

a centrifugal drum including a drum shell having at least one solids discharge nozzle; and

at least one wear protection element on the drum shell in an area of and behind the at least one solids discharge nozzle; and

further including a sleeve body as part of the at least one discharge nozzle, the sleeve body configured to close off flush with an interior side of the drum shell.

17. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 16, wherein the sleeve body projects slightly into an interior of the centrifugal drum.

18. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 14, wherein the ramp, acting as a break edge, extends in a longitudinal direction of the channel over a distance of less than half a length of the channel, such distance being 1 to 10 mm.

19. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 14, wherein a geometry of the transition between the ramp and the channel is at least one of the following: a) curved and b) abrupt.

20. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 14, wherein a geometry of the transition between the ramp and the channel is at least one of the following: a) a circle and b) an exponential function.

21. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 14, wherein an inclination of the ramp with respect to the discharge opening increases in a direction away from the discharge opening.

22. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 16, wherein the sleeve body is inserted in the radial direction of the centrifugal drum into a radially extending bore of the drum shell.

23. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 16, wherein the sleeve body includes a bore extending from an interior drum space to an exterior drum space and, which sleeve body extends in a first bore section having a first diameter in the radial direction from the interior space to the exterior space and the first bore section changes into a second bore section oriented at an angle with respect to the first bore section and has a smaller second diameter relative to the first diameter.

24. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 10, wherein a geometry of the at least one wear protection element, as an extension of the channel, is adapted to a curvature of the drum shell.

25. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 14, wherein the ramp of the at least one wear protection elements projects radially beyond an outer periphery of the drum shell.

26. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 14, wherein the ramp is constructed as an undercut break edge.

27. (Currently Amended) The separator according to Claim ~~1~~12, wherein the at least one wear protection element is constructed as a ramp at the at least one discharge nozzle which projects radially beyond the drum shell.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The separator of Claim 13, wherein the angle with respect to the discharge opening is less that 30°.

30. (Previously Presented) The separator according to Claim 13, wherein the angle with respect to the discharge opening is less than 20°.